EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UN-HABITAT
Third session of the year 2023
28-30 November 2023

AGENDA ITEM 11

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Director
Global Solutions Division
Item 11 of the provision agenda

Normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat, including

- reporting on the programmatic activities of UN-Habitat in 2023 and

- the implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities and

- the engagement of UN-Habitat in countries, territories and areas affected by conflict and disaster
A. Introduction

Purpose of the Report

Highlight progress made on the SDG Cities Flagship Programme and the Sustainable Urban Resilience for the next Generation (SURGe) initiative of the UN-Habitat between January and June 2023.

A. Update on the SDG Cities flagship programme

B. Update on the engagement and commitments to Sustainable Urban Resilience for the next Generation (SURGe) initiative

Information Annex. Progress made on selected normative and operational activities that contributed towards Subprogrammes of the strategic plan 2020-2025, the NUA and SDGs

Note

Update on the Flagship Programme 1 Inclusive Communities, Thriving Cities will be presented in the first session of the Executive Board in 2024
Background and challenges

THE WORLD WILL BE URBAN
Today 55% of the world’s population lives in cities, yet by 2050 this is expected to increase to 68%.

CITIES ARE CENTRAL TO SDGs
Cities play an essential role in achieving the SDGs by 2030 and local governments must invest in transformative actions in cities and communities around the world.

Need for cities to step up the realization of the transformative potential of cities as a positive force for sustainable development

However

➢ Not all cities are aware of the SDGs
➢ Not all cities are incentivized to engage with global agendas
➢ Not all cities are aware of frameworks such as the NUA to guide them in the local implementation of the SDGs
SDG Cities Initiative

- SDG Cities is a global initiative that encourages cities to catalyze their own potential and accelerate their achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- Cities are given tools to assess their baseline data and identify and finance priority initiatives that actively localize the SDGs.

**Strengthened institutional capacity**
- Inclusive governance
- Planning
- Municipal finance
- Service delivery
  - Solid waste management
  - Water/sanitation
  - Mobility

Data Collection

Strategic Planning

Policies and Regulations

Project Development

Project Financing

**SDG IMPACT**
SDG Cities Process

SDG Cities is implemented in four tracks:

**Data**
- Stocktaking of Data and Urban Plans
- Align Indicators with UMF
- Conduct baseline Data Assessment
- Facilitate Participatory City Development Strategy

**Strategic Planning**
- Diagnose Urban Management Effectiveness
- Build Capacity
- Implement New Policies

**Plans, Regulations, and Institutions**
- Identify Investment Requirements
- Financial Match-Making

**Investment in Impact**
- Monitor and Measure Impact
Previous feedback on SDG Cities Certification

Concerns

• Managerial and funding concerns: how to go to scale and secure coverage of the costs?
• Labeling concerns: How to avoid a top-down, one-path-fits-all that stratifies cities?

Recommendations

• Adaptation to national and subnational contexts
• Encourage finance opportunities
  • Help de-risk local projects
  • Generate a project pipeline
  • Cluster projects within cities
Progress on tool development, indicators and partnerships

**INDICATORS**
- Institutional capacities assessment
- Capacity strengthening action plan

**TOOLS**
- Self-assessment tools on governance, planning, revenue and service delivery

**CITY INVESTMENT READINESS**
- Integration of third party evaluation

**DATA TRACK**

**INDICATORS**
- SDG commitment
- Stocktaking of plans, data and strategies

**TOOLS**
- Global urban monitoring framework
- City scan data tool

**STRATEGIC PLANNING TRACK**

**INDICATORS**
- SDG alignment
- SDG strategic plan and/or action-oriented VLR

**TOOLS**
- City development strategy
- UN-Habitat Our City plans

**INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS TRACK**

**INDICATORS**
- Measurable progress SDG strategic plan
- Project funding pipeline
- City intervention plan aligned with ESG criteria

**FINANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION TRACK**

**TOOLS**
- Cities Investment Facility (CIF)
- City Investment Advisory Platform
- SDG Source Platform
- UNCDF EMIs
- UNCDF International Municipal Investment Fund
- UNCDF Subnational Investment Guarantee

**SDG IMPACT**

**ESG PROJECT CREDIBILITY**
- Alignment with ESG criteria
Way forward


2. Empower use of SDG Cities tools. Facilitate SDG Cities tools for governments and organizations of all levels to tailor them accordingly.

3. Leave no city behind. Find resources to make SDG Cities free of charge.

4. Embrace UN System capacity to go to scale. Find linkages for greater capacity and impact.

5. Strengthen source of finance linkages. Work on strategies like the project pipeline, or MDB partnerships for finance opportunities.
1. **SDG Cities Tools**

UMF, Action-Oriented VLR, Diagnostic Tools, Learning Courses, Digital Platform, SIF SOURCE platform, Project Assessment Tool

USD1.2 million – equating to 10 new tools, 10 updated tools and platform maintenance.

2. **Monitoring support to cities and recognition of key stages**

Remote monitoring.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Track</th>
<th>Cost per city</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Data</td>
<td>USD 5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Planning</td>
<td>USD 10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Effectiveness Track</td>
<td>USD 10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact</td>
<td>USD 5000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. **Local 2030 “Cities Hub”**

| Tools development and maintenance (see 1) | $1.2 million |
| Monitoring Support for LDCs/DCs (see 2)   | $1 million   |
| Training for cities                       | $500,000     |
| TOTAL                                     | $2.7 million |
## Cost Models

### Model 1: costs normally require donor support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Digital tools</th>
<th>In-kind</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Technical Support Team</td>
<td>$600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Backstopping and Training Support</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progress monitoring and key-stage evaluation</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL annual cost</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,000,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Model 2: costs may require donor support or the support of national government

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>In-kind</th>
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<td><strong>TOTAL annual cost</strong></td>
<td><strong>$400,000</strong></td>
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</table>

### Model 3: costs could be covered by participating cities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Digital tools</th>
<th>In-kind</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E-guidance manuals</td>
<td>In-kind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical support, backstopping and training</td>
<td>In-kind through participating cities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progress monitoring and key-stage evaluation</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL annual cost</strong></td>
<td><strong>$100,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
C. Update on the Sustainable Urban Resilience for the next Generation - SURGe

SURGe launched by the COP27 Presidency

- To connect the local, national, and global levels to coordinate collective climate action
- Aim to improve collaboration between sectoral initiatives

Milestones

- A value proposition was completed, and collaboration started toward implementing SURGe in Fiji, Egypt and Morocco
- Work in five working groups started to identify the needs for local-level capacity building, tools, and guidance needs

Key partners

- SURGe is further conceptualized by UN-Habitat, ICLEI, and other key partners
- Discussions within a group of member states, such as Bonn climate talks (SB58), Daring Cities, and during the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly in June 2023
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Options for SURGe implementation – 4 work packages:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Building the <strong>global SURGe partnership</strong> as a network of working group partners, national governments, city networks, academia, NGOs and others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Building a global network of <strong>national city and climate change focal points/teams</strong> responsible for supporting urban and local climate action</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td><strong>City level roll-out</strong>, comprehensive planning for and implementation of climate action for net-zero and climate-resilient development</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>A <strong>small and lean secretariat hosted by UN-Habitat</strong>, responsible for communication and partnerships, expanding the network and coordination, including convening the Steering Committee, coordinating the five working groups, coordinating between national SURGe focal points and regional offices</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Funding options: Self-funding, private sector funding, loans, development assistance. Linking with the UN-Habitat Flagship Programme on resilient settlements for the urban poor ‘RISE-UP’. 